REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 2, 2005. The Examiner's comments in that Action have been carefully considered. Applicants request that the term for responding to this Action be extended from August 2 to September 2, 2005, and a check for the one month extension fee is enclosed. If this check is insufficient, please charge the remainder due to our account 10-0100.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for reasons set forth in paragraph 1 of the Action. The specification has been amended to remove all reference to claims. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the disclosure be reconsidered and withdrawn. Claims 5 and 11 have been objected to because of informalities stated in paragraph 2 of the Action. These claims have been amended to eliminate the objected-to phrasing and therefore it is respectfully requested that this objection to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 14-16 have been rejected as being indefinite for reasons set forth in paragraph 4 of the Action. In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1, 2 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 17 and 18 have been added, and the remaining claims have been amended to be dependent on claim 17 (with only claim 18 dependent on claim 7) and to address the specific objections raised by the Examiner. However, the rejections to claims 8 and 9 are respectfully traversed. It is believed that, as amended, these claims are not indefinite. Each of these claims simply defines that the method requires the application of an additional adhesive substance at those locations where the greatest support forces are needed in the garment. Thus, where there is greater exposure to stress in the garment, additional adhesive substance application dots or beads need to be applied. It is believed that one skilled in the art would understand these claims and not find these to be indefinite.

The claims have been further amended to address any language that might be considered to be indefinite. Reconsideration of all of these claims is requested, as all of these claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11, 14 and 15 have been rejected as being obvious and therefore unpatentable for reasons set forth in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. In light of the claims as now amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent method claim 17 has been added, and it requires that a layer of elastomeric adhesive be selectively applied between the upper and lower layers of the garment and that pressure must then be applied to press the upper and lower layers against each other so that they adhere to each other in the regions where the elastomeric adhesive applications have been applied. This forms a high elasticity bond between the upper and lower layers, the composite thickness of which is substantially equal to the sum of the thicknesses of the individual upper and lower layers. Claim 17 now contains, as well, the subject matter of canceled claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted the prior art reference do not teach or suggest such method. In this connection, it should be noted that EP 0 852 915 A uses epoxy resin. Epoxy resin has properties different from those of the elastomeric silicone adhesive used in the present invention. It is well known to those in the art that epoxy is a thermosetting plastic which cures to a stronger or harder form. This means that, after curing, the epoxy resin is no longer elastic. In contrast, elastic properties are essential to the present invention. Elastic properties comprise one of the main advantages over the prior art: namely that, in the present invention, the connection between the two layers has high elasticity and at the same time is able to support high forces or stresses between the layers.

U.S. Patent No. 3,327,707 discloses a procedure for connecting two layers of fabric. In the first step (column 3, lines 36-73), fabric layer 13 is coated with an elastomeric adhesive 26. After being coated, an interleaving material 27 is supplied on the fabric in order to protect the coating. In the second step, the interleaving material 27 is removed, leaving the adhesive surface bare. A girdle fabric 10 is connected with the fabric layer 13 while applying heat and pressure. The result is a thick connection of both layers, as can be seen from Figures 6a and 6b. This thick connection is uncomfortable to the person wearing the undergarment. In the present invention, by contrast, a very thin connection of two layers can be obtained. This connection has an overall thickness that is small and substantially equal to the sum of the thicknesses of the two layers, without adhesive, as the adhesive substance extends into the upper and the lower layers.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the method as now defined in the claims of record clearly and patentably distinguishes over the applied. Reconsideration of the prior art rejections and withdrawal of same is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and issuance. Early processing to same is respectfully solicited.

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By _____
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Applicant hereby petitions that any and all extensions of time of the term necessary to render this response timely be granted. COSTS FOR SUCH EXTENSION(S) AND/OR ANY OTHER FEE DUE WITH THIS FEE DUE WITH THIS PAPER THAT ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY AN ENCLOSED CHECK MAY BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #10-0100.